

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed February 6, 2004. Claims 1-16 were rejected. The claims have been amended to address the concerns raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-21 were originally presented. Claims 1-16 remain in the application. Claims 17-21 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 10 has been amended. No claims have been added.

Election/Restriction Requirements:

In response to the restriction requirement of February 3, 2004, the Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, the first group. The claims readable thereon being claims 1-16.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-16 (including independent claims 1 and 10) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brucker et al (USPN 4,487,583).

In order to most succinctly explain why the claims presented herein are allowable, Applicant will direct the following remarks primarily to the originally presented independent claim 1 with the understanding that once an independent claim is allowable, all claims depending therefrom are allowable.

The Brucker reference fails to disclose a display strip comprising a plurality of lights wherein the lights are capable of displaying images.

In Contrast, independent claim 1 sets forth:

1. A method of playing a game, comprising
 - applying at least one display strip to at least one player, wherein the display strip comprises a plurality of lights, and wherein the lights are capable of displaying images;
 - receiving input from at least one player;
 - providing output signals to the display strip; and
 - displaying images on the display strip.

The Brucker reference teaches the use of a single light emitting diode (LED) placed in the center of each of seven zones of a garment and a lamp on a shoulder piece of said garment (see Col. 3 lines 57-68). The seven disparately placed LEDs and the lamp do not comprise a display strip comprising a plurality of lights. Nor are the seven LEDs capable of displaying images, since they are spaced across the garment.

Therefore, claim 1, as presented, is allowable over the prior art. The rejection of claim 1 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 4 claims using a plurality of display strips and applying at least one display strip to a plurality of players. Again, Brucker does not teach the use of a display strip. Further, a plurality of garments, as taught in Brucker, cannot be worn by a single user.

Therefore, claim 4, as presented, is allowable over the prior art. The rejection of claim 4 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of the dependent claims 2, 3, and 5-9 should be reconsidered and withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to the independent claim 1. The dependent claims, being narrower in scope, are allowable for at least the reasons for which the independent claim is allowable

Similarly, independent claim 10, as amended, sets forth, in part, “at least one display strip in communication with the processor, wherein the display strip includes a plurality of lights, wherein the lights are capable of displaying images.... As discussed previously, the Brucker reference does not teach a display strip wherein the lights are capable of displaying images. The apparatus taught in Brucker is not capable of displaying images.

Therefore, claim 10, as presented, is allowable over the prior art. The rejection of claim 10 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 12 claims a game input device that can receive input from a specified player and display the status of the player on the display strip. The Brucker reference does not teach this capability. The garment, as taught in Brucker, does not have the capability of distinguishing between players.

Therefore, claim 12, as presented, is allowable over the prior art. The rejection of claim 12 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 16 claims a handheld microprocessor capable of executing stored game instructions. Hand-held microprocessors were not generally available in 1981 when Brucker was filed, and were typically not capable of executing stored game instructions. Thus, Brucker does not teach the use of a handheld microprocessor capable of executing stored game instructions.

Therefore, claim 16, as presented, is allowable over the prior art. The rejection of claim 16 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection of the dependent claims 11 and 13-15 should be reconsidered and withdrawn for at least the reasons given above with respect to the independent claim 10. The dependent claims, being narrower in scope, are allowable for at least the reasons for which the independent claim is allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-16 are allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

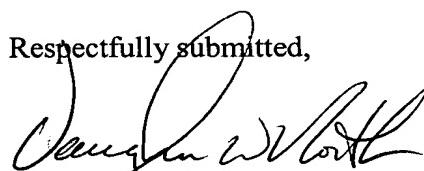
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-16 are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Vaughn North at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

No claims were added. Therefore, no additional fee is due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

DATED this 24th day of June, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



Vaughn W. North
Registration No. 27,930

THORPE NORTH & WESTERN, LLP
P.O. Box 1219
Sandy, Utah 84091-1219
Telephone: (801) 566-6633